

SEAS OF FLAME.

The Astral Oil Works in Eastern Brooklyn Ignite and Explosion Follows Explosion.

Ten Thousand Barrels of Oil Turned Into a Seething Cauldron—The Loss Over Half a Million.

Three Natural Gas Explosions in Pennsylvania, in Which Three People Perish.

THE CITY OF FIRES.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., Dec. 21.—An explosion in Pratt's astral oil works, in the eastern part of Brooklyn, has called out the whole fire department of the city. The first explosion coming led the flame of one oil tank with the gases to a second, and a second explosion followed almost immediately. These two explosions made free ten thousand barrels of oil, and all this flaming mass catching on to the river of melted snow, was carried into every nook and cranny of the works. The result was that all the buildings and tanks at the works, excepting the large brick building in which casing is done, were destroyed, besides the long docks on the creek. The loss will reach between \$500,000 and \$600,000. The shock of the two explosions broke the windows of all the houses in the neighborhood, and sent the people in terror flying into the streets. The building of the Williamsburg Gaslight company, on the opposite side of Twelfth street, shook so violently that some persons thought it would fall. The building later was in great danger from the spreading flames. The heat was so intense that the firemen could not get close enough to render the necessary service. Chief Engineer Nevins and his associates undertook to cut off the fire from the gaschase, as the flowing, blazing oil seemed to be surging that way, and they were successful. The very noise of the seething flames could be heard blocks away. The tug-boats Brilliant, Daylight and Duval took up positions on the river and sent their heaviest streams in the cauldron of flames, but the wind veered and carried the flames out at them and they were compelled to steam away. Then the fire had complete control of the riverside and was slowly eating its way toward First street. Explosion followed explosion and the burning masses of oil were carried long distances. Thousands of spectators gathered, standing in the slush of snow and under the heavy rain watching the conflagration. A long train of Manhattan beach cars on the track near Bushwick creek was crowded with excited onlookers. A dividing wall had been erected in the yard to prevent a fire from going beyond it. The great heat of the flames cracked the safety wall and it came down with a crash. After that the fire razed the entire premises. The wind shifted, blowing to landward, and the fire broke now got to work again. At the same time the firemen ashore were driven away so hurriedly that they had to abandon an engine, which in a full of the wind and a subsidence of the flames they soon recovered. The fireboats and firemen then obtained mastery and the flames were brought under control. Pratt & Co., it is understood, are insured.

EXPLOSIONS IN PENNSYLVANIA.

PITTSBURG, Pa., Dec. 21.—Natural gas has been playing sad havoc at different places in Western Pennsylvania within the past twenty-four hours, reports of explosions, attended with fatal and serious results having been received from Butler and Washington, while in this city a building on Magee street occupied by H. Studt as a grocery store was completely demolished this evening by an explosion which terribly frightened the residents in that part of the city and damaged property to the extent of \$2000.

At Washington, Pa., the residence of Wm. Rabe was partially wrecked, and Mr. Rabe, his wife and child were injured so badly that all have since died. Mrs. Rabe arose during the night and went into the cellar with a lighted candle, when an explosion took place.

A poet special says that the excitement at Washington is intense, as many people living there have natural gas in their houses.

The explosion at Butler, Pa., occurred about 1 o'clock this morning and came very nearly ending in a horrible disaster.

A special to the Commercial-Gazette just received says that the fine brick residence of John Gates was entirely demolished, and the family, consisting of himself, wife and four children all grown up, were buried in the debris. Fortunately the entire family were rescued although all were more or less seriously hurt. It appears that they retired about 10 o'clock and probably two hours later Winnie, a daughter aged twenty years, who slept down stairs, awoke and noticed a tiny blue flame playing on the hearthstone. She got up and put it out and then called her brother John, who, with a light, went to the cellar to investigate. He had no sooner opened the door than a terrible explosion followed and the building was raised from its foundation and came down a mass of ruins. The people living a quarter of a mile away felt the shock, and in a short time plenty of willing hands were at work trying to save the lives of the six human beings who were known to have been in the building at the time the explosion occurred.

The first one taken out was Leonard, aged twenty-eight years. He was painfully bruised and it is thought sustained internal injuries.

John Gates, Jr., was the next found. He was badly burned about the face and arms, but not seriously hurt.

Mr. and Mrs. Gates escaped with severe bruises, and the daughters, Winnie and Emily, were found in the coal vault uninjured.

The escape of all from instant death is miraculous. The loss on the building and furniture will reach \$3,000. Mr. Gates has been in the gas and coal business for seventeen years, and this is the first time that he has suf-

fered from an explosion. There is a good deal of mystery surrounding the accident. There was no natural gas in the house, and the mains are thirty-five feet away and buried three feet under the ground.

A CRASH AT NEW ORLEANS.

The Frame-Work of the Exposition Hotel Falls—Two Fatalities.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Dec. 21.—Three hundred feet of the iron frame-work of the large hotel erected west of the main exposition building fell with a terrible crash to-day. Frank Queen, colored, of Nashville was instantly killed. Albert Freezee of Michigan was mortally injured and Jas. Carroll of Chicago was severely injured internally. The foreman in charge of the building, Mr. Miller, said that he had a narrow escape from death. He said it was the narrowest escape he had ever witnessed in his life on the part of forty-odd workmen who were in the building. Most of the men were at work on the building. Those on the top fell in the vegetable garden on Walnut street. Miller attributes the accident to the weakness of the Walnut street foundation and to the insufficiency of the supporting ropes. He stated also that the ropes temporarily put up near the middle of the building were not driven far enough, and that with the very heavy weather lately experienced and the strong wind blowing for the past two days, the building was unable to stand, being top-heavy with iron and timber. He has observed that the building had gone out of plumb from east to west about two feet, and he had just attempted to remedy that defect by having extra tension put in the main stories or ropes when the structure swayed and with a crash came down.

There was a moderate attendance at the exposition to-day. There was divine service in the music hall and a sacred concert was given by the Mexican band.

SACRED CATTLE IN TEXAS.

The Menagerie Stock Strengthens the Herds of the Lone Star State.

New Mexican Stock Grower. John O'Neil, a cattle grower of lifelong experience in Victoria county, Tex., called on the Stock Grower this week and a conversation with him proved most interesting. Mr. O'Neil is one of the very few breeders in this country of Brahmas, or sacred cattle of the East Indies. It would at first seem far-fetched to speak of raising "menagerie stock," but Mr. O'Neil will soon be able to prove to stockmen of the West that this strain will show as many good qualities as the much-talked-of Herefords and Durhams. The first sacred cattle brought to America consisted of two lots, one of which went to Georgia and the other to Louisiana. In 1879 Mr. O'Neil noticed cows near his home which were a cross between the natives and the Brahmas, and were the property of a neighbor. The winter and spring of 1879 were exceptionally hard on cattle, and the "die-off" was something tremendous. One observing friend saw in the spring that the Brahmas were in excellent condition, and after experiments he concluded that the breed would be a good one to cross with native stock. Mr. O'Neil secured a bull and two cows (thoroughbreds) from the Louisiana herd, afterward increasing the number from Georgia. The result of the cross was satisfactory. They are of good size, fine beef qualities, and possess the best rustling qualities of any breed.

Mr. O'Neil obtains the best results from a cross between the sacred cattle with pure Durhams, and the male stock from this cross he runs with his natives. There is a heavy demand in Texas for the Brahmas, as they are called, but it is utterly impossible to supply it. Mr. O'Neil intends to stock a ranch in this territory, when our New Mexican cattle-owners will have an opportunity of seeing the sacred cattle. The thoroughbreds are described as being of a rich cream color, and the bulls have a very prominent hump on the shoulder.

Indications.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—West Gulf: Clearing weather, lower temperature, northerly winds.

Stealing the Government Lands.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 21.—The United States marshal has gone to Chicago to arrest fifteen persons there indicted for fraudulent entries of homestead lands in this state.

Not of National Importance.

San Antonio Times.

It is not by any manner of means a matter of national importance that the United States government should expend \$7,500,000 upon an uncertainty, to obtain deep water at Galveston, nor is the state of Texas vitally interested in pushing this scheme. There ought to be a good harbor, with a sufficient depth of water, somewhere on the coast of Texas, on the gulf of Mexico, for naval purposes, but this harbor need not of necessity be at Galveston. There are several more eligible places for harbors along the coast, and this fact should not be ignored. Aransas, Sabine Pass, Matagorda, Port Caballo, etc., possess greater natural advantages for safe harborage for shipping than any which Galveston can boast of, and the United States government is bound to give them due consideration before it launches out into the enormous expenditure of \$7,500,000 upon a sort of haphazard business. The expenditure of \$1,500,000 at Aransas will secure a greater depth of water and a better harbor than the expenditure of \$7,500,000 is ever likely to effect at Galveston, and this one fact should settle the appropriation. The federal government wants a good harbor for shipping on the coast of Texas, but it is under no obligations to waste money in an effort to help Galveston.

Christmas Goods.

For the holiday trade Turner & McClure have just received a nice stock of cakes and jumbles, seedless raisins, orange peel, lemon peel and citron. In fact, their stock of fine goods is full and complete, and they are prepared to fill any kind of an order for a Christmas dinner.

NEW YORK OFFICE, 68 WORTH STREET.

THE

BOSTON OFFICE, 21 FRANKLIN STREET.

MARTIN-BROWN & CO.

Exclusively Wholesale Dealers in—

DRY GOODS, FURNISHING GOODS, BOOTS, SHOES AND HATS.
FORT WORTH, TEXAS.

WASHINGTON GOSSIP.

Indiana Concludes That She Ought to be Represented in Cleveland's Cabinet.

The Opinion Prevails That Congress Will Accomplish No Work During the Holidays.

INDIANA WANTS A CABINET PORT FOLIO.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—An informal meeting of the Democratic members of congress and citizens of Indiana was held at the capitol last night. The sentiment was generally expressed that Indiana was entitled to recognition in the cabinet of the president-elect, and the opinion was unanimous that in that event the honor should be conferred on ex-Senator McDonald or Senator Voorhees. All the Democratic members of the house were present and concurred in the views expressed.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—It is the general opinion of the members of the house of representatives that when that body meets Wednesday next it will immediately adjourn three days, and that successive similar adjournments will take place until January 5, unless in the meantime the senate shall amend and pass the concurrent resolution, providing for a holiday recess.

The failure of the conferees upon the naval bill to reach an understanding, so that the holiday recess might begin last night, was a disappointment to many senators who had made arrangements to leave the city, and although the senate meets to-morrow it may be without a quorum and therefore unable to transact any business except by ignoring that fact. If a quorum is present the senate interstate commerce bill, the bill to forfeit the land grant of the Oregon Central railroad, and Mr. Hill's silver resolutions are the unfinished matters upon which speeches may be made, but it is unlikely that action will be taken with respect to any important question during the absence of the many senators who left the city not to return until after New Year's.

Two temporary naval appropriation bills are pending, one providing for the naval establishment for the last half of the current fiscal year and one making provision for the month of January. One or the other of these bills may be passed but in view of the action of the senate last night and the temper of the majority of the senators at that time, such a course seems improbable.

The informal discussion of the Nicaraguan treaty began yesterday, the pretext being the pendency of Mr. Vent's resolution declaring it inexpedient to send a surveying party to Nicaragua, and may be continued upon the same basis, the treaty itself not having been reported back from the committee.

CATTLE-TRAILS MUST BE KEPT OPEN.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Ex-Representative Upson of Texas is here as the legal representative of the cattle-raisers in Texas and the Southwest generally for the purpose of securing the passage of a bill through congress requiring the cattle-trails of the West and Southwest to be kept open. Immediately after the holidays he will be joined by others from Texas, Kansas and New Mexico, interested in this matter, and a strong effort will be made early in January to secure the legislation desired. The complaint made is that the fencing in of the enormous tracts of country in the West for grazing purposes has blocked the trails over which cattle are driven to Eastern markets. In the Indian territory particularly it is alleged that lately erected fences inclosing the grazing lands leased from the Indians extend across the cattle trails in different places. This will entail heavy loss upon the Southwestern cattle raisers unless congress grants the relief asked and compels the trails to be kept open.

AN OVERWORKED CHIEF JUSTICE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Chief Justice Waite, who has been seriously ill for a week past, and whose condition yesterday and Friday was such as to cause his family and friends much uneasiness, is much better to-night. The chief justice has been suffering from the effects of overwork lately, and a week ago he contracted a severe cold, which was the immediate cause of his prostration. Early last week erysipelas set in in his face and besetled much from neuralgic pains. The erysipelas was the dangerous symptom, but to-day it had entirely disappeared and tonight his condition is improved so much that his son, who was summoned here from Ohio early in the week, has left for home.

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THE LARGEST STOCK AND LOWEST PRICES.
PIANOS, ORGANS--SEWING MACHINES
AT FACTORY PRICES.

Pianos tuned and repaired on short notice and warranted. Beware of strangers claiming to be Tuners. Many a Piano has been ruined by such men.

EVENTS ABROAD.

A Disagreement Arises Between France and Germany in the Congo Conference.

London all Agog Over the Discovery of Another Dynamite Plot Which Miscarried.

THE CONGO CONFERENCE.

FRANCE AND GERMANY DISAGREE. BERLIN, Dec. 21.—England, Germany, Holland and Italy are now in accord upon the proposition to neutralize the territory of the African international association. The entente cordiale between Germany and France is tending to a rupture, France persisting in opposition to the neutralization of the association's territory. The Congo Gazette in a semi-official article expresses astonishment that France, which until recently has shared in the good will towards the international association, now wishes to despoil the association of its territory. The Gazette declares that Germany will defend the interests of the international association, which are those of all Germans, knowing as she does that German traders will find in territory of the association a better welcome than they would find in the French territory.

LONDON CONVULSED WITH FEAR.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—A fire broke out in the parcel office at the Windsor railway station Saturday and burned rapidly for a while, but was soon extinguished. Among the debris were found some brass wheels and bottles, supposed to contain explosives. They are thought to be the remains of an infernal machine. There is no clew to the person who let the machine. A foreigner was noticed loitering about the station Friday. It is believed that the culprit, finding himself unable to enter the royal palace and that the queen had gone to Osborne, and thinking that his designs were frustrated, took the machine to the railway station to rid himself of it. The affair causes great excitement. The wheels found were similar to those found in the machines used in the outrages at Victoria, Paddington and other stations, and are of cheap American clock-pattern. A tin can containing a dark, gelatinous substance was also found and its contents are now being analyzed. A fuse made of cotton and saturated with alcohol protruded from the neck of the bottle. A broken quart bottle which had recently contained rectified spirits was also found in close proximity. It is believed that the fuse instead of igniting the nitro-glycerine ignited other inflammable articles. Col. Majendie, the chief inspector of explosives, is making a careful examination. The man noticed loitering about the station is described as having the appearance of an American. He had a shallow face and wore a mustache.

NO CHRISTIANS MASSACRED IN MACEDONIA.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—Reports of the massacre of Christians by the Mussulmans in Macedonia have been circulated lately. Russian Tewfik Pasha, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary from Turkey to the United States and stationed in this city, officially denies the truth of the statements and says that the reports emanate from agitators who are interested in the subversion of public order in the province of Salonica, where the most absolute calm and tranquillity prevail.

ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF THE CZAR.

BERLIN, Dec. 21.—Letters from St. Petersburg give the details of the recent attempt on the life of the czar. The attempt was made upon the oc-

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Wholesale Druggists.
Patent Medicines at Manufacturers rates.
HEADQUARTERS FOR SHOW CASES. THE LARGEST STOCK OF

Nos. 409, 411 and 413 Houston St. Fort Worth.

SEATON & DARTER,
Real Estate and Live Stock Agents.
303 Houston Street, Fort Worth.

ROBERTS, HARDWICKE & TAYLOR
WHOLESALE HARDWARE
Headquarters for Show Cases.
A LARGE STOCK ALWAYS ON HAND.

A Car Load just received. Will duplicate St. Louis or Chicago prices. Freight only.
Send for Catalogue and Prices.

Sherman, - - - - - Tex.

casions of the recent fete of the chevaliers of St. George. The rails on the Gatech line, over which the czar's train had to pass, were found loosened at a certain spot. The soldier on guard at the place where the train was expected to leave the rails was afterwards found murdered.

A VIVID COMPARISON.

BERLIN, Dec. 21.—The Germanist, an Ultramontane organ, in a psalmist article, compares the position of the German empire to a dance upon a volcano, and says that the electoral successes of the socialists, the searches of the barracks by the police, the trial of the anarchists at Leipzig, indicate a state of beginning decay.

EGYPTIAN AFFAIRS.

OUTLINE OF WOLSELEY'S CAMPAIGN. CAIRO, Dec. 21.—Lord-General Wolseley will complete the concentration of his army at Korta the first week in January, and will begin his march through the desert upon Shendi the 7th of January. The distance from Korta to Shendi is 200 hundred miles, and Gen. Wolseley calculates that the march will occupy sixteen days unless he meets with opposition from the enemy on the route. A simultaneous movement will be made from Suakin against Osman Digma in order to secure from attack the flank of the Nile expedition of Gen. Wolseley. Gen. Stephenson leaves Cairo for Suakin Wednesday to assume command of the expedition from that place. Maj. Chermide reports that out of the garrison at Suakin of 1500 marines and sailors there are only 100 effective men. Fresh troops will be sent to Suakin. It is reported that Gen. Stephenson insists upon the necessity of raising an effective force of 5000 men to successfully operate against Osman Digma.

A Steamer Ashore.

MORRIS PLAINS, L. I., Dec. 21.—The steamer Olivette, 1400 tons, Capt. Trotter, in ballast from Shields, England, to Austin Baldwin & Co., New York, went ashore on the beach off here this morning. The crew were saved. The steamer will probably be a total wreck.

No Clew to Howgate's Whereabouts. KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 21.—The detectives sent to Nebraska in search of Capt. Howgate, late signal officer, have been unable to gain a trace of his whereabouts. They have visited De Witt, where his mistress was supposed to be living, but they were unable to find her.

CITY BULLETIN.

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FORT WORTH, TEXAS.
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REAL ESTATE and LIVE STOCK

130. House of a large brick, built in 1880, with gas and water, and a full bath, and a full kitchen, and a full cellar, and a full attic, and a full porch, and a full garden, and a full lot, and a full street, and a full view, and a full price of \$7500.
131. Small house of a room, and a full bath, and a full kitchen, and a full cellar, and a full attic, and a full porch, and a full garden, and a full lot, and a full street, and a full view, and a full price of \$1500.
132. Building site, 100x100, and a full bath, and a full kitchen, and a full cellar, and a full attic, and a full porch, and a full garden, and a full lot, and a full street, and a full view, and a full price of \$1000.
133. Building site, 100x100, and a full bath, and a full kitchen, and a full cellar, and a full attic, and a full porch, and a full garden, and a full lot, and a full street, and a full view, and a full price of \$1000.
134. Five dwellings, all new, and a full bath, and a full kitchen, and a full cellar, and a full attic, and a full porch, and a full garden, and a full lot, and a full street, and a full view, and a full price of \$1000.
135. A desirable business place, and a full bath, and a full kitchen, and a full cellar, and a full attic, and a full porch, and a full garden, and a full lot, and a full street, and a full view, and a full price of \$1000.
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